

# Reading at home: My Letters and Sounds Phonics Readers

Your child will regularly bring home a **My Letters and Sounds Phonics Reader**. This is your child's reading practice book. It will be at the correct phonics stage for your child so they should be able to read it to you, perhaps with a little help.

Listening to your child read the book aloud will help to develop their fluency and confidence in reading.

Always encourage your child to use their phonics skills when reading. Remember to give them lots of praise when they do this.

The downloadable resources **Phonics practice at home in Reception** and **Phonics practice at home in Year 1** are available on the **Schofield & Sims** website and provide a helpful overview of the phonics teaching that your child will receive at school and the phonics skills that they will learn.

Here are some tips for hearing your child read a **My Letters and Sounds Phonics Reader**:

- ▶ Read the short blurb on the back cover of the book to your child and talk about the illustration on the front cover. You might use words from the title of the book to remind them how to 'say the sounds' and 'blend the word'.
- ▶ Ask your child questions from the 'Talk about the book' section on the inside front cover of the book. These questions will help your child to start thinking about what the book will be about.
- ▶ You could also use the 'Say the sounds' section on the inside front cover to practise the focus sounds your child will come across in the book.
- ▶ In Reception, some of the words in the **Phonics Readers** are coloured blue. These are 'tricky words', meaning that they have a letter or letters that make an unexpected sound. New tricky words are listed on the inside front cover so your child can practise them before reading the book.
- ▶ If your child pauses at a tricky word while reading the book, you should still ask them to sound-talk the word, but remind them to look for the tricky letter that makes an unusual sound (for example, the 'o' in 'do').
- ▶ In Reception, some words in the **Phonics Readers** have two or three letters that are underlined. This is to remind children that those letters go together to make one sound. Some examples of these words are listed on the inside front cover of the book for your child to practise. If your child says the individual letter sounds, remind them that the 'two (or three) letters make one sound'. Ask them to say the sounds again and blend them together (for example, r-oa-s-t roast).
- ▶ When your child is reading the book, always prompt them to use their phonics skills to work out words. Don't ask them to look for a clue in the picture, guess the word, or rely on memory.
- ▶ If your child pauses at a word, remind them to 'say the sounds' and then 'blend them together'.
- ▶ Your child should recognise some words automatically without saying the sounds and blending them.

This is a good thing as it is a sign of reading fluency. They do not need to go back and sound-talk these words.

- ▶ If your child is struggling with a word, help to sound-talk it. For example, point to the letters, say the sounds and see if your child can then blend and say the word.
- ▶ After your child has sound-talked and read a word, encourage them to go back and read the complete sentence to check that the word makes sense.
- ▶ When your child finishes reading a page, pause occasionally to discuss the picture and talk about what is happening. This helps to check their understanding of the text.

Encourage your child to reread the book again on a different day. Rereading the **Phonics Readers** a number of times will help your child to develop fluency and confidence in reading.

When your child rereads the book, you can talk more about the book and what happens. There are some questions on the inside back cover of the book that can help you with this.